

Date: April 6, 2004

RE: RM-10870

To whom it may concern:

Doing away with the Morse code requirements as proposed by this document, is a bad idea! The proposal calls for limiting power output by the "communicator" level of license class and the use of only commercially manufactured equipment. This would be like allowing 10 year olds to drive only automatic cars, and only then at 25 MPH! Changing the rules to make things easier for a few, does not enhance the many! The fact of the matter is that everyone using amateur radio should have a basic understanding of radio, safety, antennas, etc., etc. To completely do away with an operating mode (one of the most reliable in bad conditions I might add) and to lessen the overall requirements for obtaining a license of any class, is NOT in the best interest of the hobby!

The rules and requirements for obtaining an amateur radio license need made more stringent, not less. People should earn their privileges not have them given to them arbitrarily. Morse code is one of the most reliable forms of communication. Given what amateur radio stands for, and its history, it would be wrong to not keep or even enhance, that art and skill level of those in the hobby by increasing the Morse code requirements.

Thank You,  
Glen A. Powell